



300 E. Joppa Road, Suite 1105
Baltimore, Maryland 21286-3016
410-821-2828 / TOLL FREE: 1-877-687-9004
FAX: 410-321-3116
info@goccp.state.md.us
www.goccp.maryland.gov

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Christopher B. Shank
Executive Director

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Contact: Patty Mochel
Office: 410-821-2845
pmochel@goccp.state.md.us

Thirteen Jurisdictions Receive Grants to Increase Efficiency in Posting Ex Parte and Protective Orders

Funds Will Help Law Enforcement Units Move Quickly to Protect Vulnerable Residents

The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention has awarded \$196,354 in grant funding to help protect victims of domestic violence, under the state's Domestic Violence Unit Program (DVUP). These grants allow local sheriffs and police departments to create specialized units for the service of ex partes and protective orders and to update and maintain their domestic violence databases.

Protective orders are vitally important for victims of domestic violence because they order an abuser to stay away from the victim. A temporary protective order can be issued "ex parte," which means that the respondent is not present in court.

The DVUP offers law enforcement the resources to meet District and Circuit Courts guidelines for efficient and timely serving of ex partes and protective orders. It reduces the time between the issuance of ex partes and protective orders and their entry into law enforcement databases. Once that process is complete, police have the legal authority to block an individual from harassing or even harming another.

"We must do all we can to protect victims of domestic violence," said Christopher B. Shank, GOCCP's Executive Director. "Knowing when a protective order is served is vital for officers in police departments or sheriff's offices. Once that order has been served, the abuser must stay away from the victim or face legal consequences."

Grant funds requested through this application are limited to programs directly related to the service and data entry of protective orders and/or ex partes. Funding supports efforts to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Funds must be used on services that are directly related to protective order operations, (i.e., salaries and overtime). The funds must supplement existing data entry and service for ex parte and protective orders and may not underwrite other existing programs or service.

EDITORS: a list of the jurisdictions receiving these awards, and the amount for each is attached.

Domestic Violence Unit Program Awards, July 2015		
Implementing Agency	County	Amount
Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office	Anne Arundel County	\$31,425
Baltimore Police Department	Baltimore City	\$50,189
Baltimore County Sheriff's Office	Baltimore County	\$6,196
Baltimore County Police Department	Baltimore County	\$35,000
Calvert County Sheriff's Office	Calvert County	\$4,800
Carroll County Sheriff's Office	Carroll County	\$5,844
Charles County Sheriff's Office	Charles County	\$3,000
Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	Dorchester County	\$1,680
Frederick County Sheriff's Office	Frederick County	\$6,621
Howard County Sheriff's Office	Howard County	\$4,650
Kent County Sheriff's Office	Kent County	\$625
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	Montgomery County	\$15,330
Hagerstown Police Department	Washington County	\$10,994
Wicomico County Sheriff's Office	Wicomico County	\$20,000
Total		\$196,354

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